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AUTHOR Monroe, Lorraine
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ABSTRACT

Lorraine Monroe, founder of the Frederick Douglass Academy, a public school that promises inner-city students an education comparable to that of an elite suburban school, tells her own story of overcoming obstacles to become a respected educator. Monroe grew up in Harlem in a broken home after the departure of an abusive father. Following her graduation from Hunter College, she became a classroom teacher and then a principal. Through decades of work, she developed her "Monroe Doctrine," a leadership method that emphasizes concern for students, respect, structure, hard work, and openness to new ideas. Much of the book focuses on the Frederick Douglass Academy and its programs of caring, disciplined creativity, and refusal to accept mediocrity. (SLD)

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